



FACT SHEET

EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

PROJECT PROFILE

Palestinian Youth Empowerment Program (Ruwwad)

JANUARY 2011



*Youth working in the media center
at the Youth Development and
Resource Center in Hebron.*

CHALLENGES

- A significant “youth bulge” with 50 percent of population under age 18.
- High unemployment with youth unemployment at 20 percent in the West Bank.
- Lack of experiential learning and leadership opportunities.
- Supply driven education that is out of touch with relevant skills for the job market.
- Lack of proper physical infrastructure for youth activities.

Project Overview

The Palestinian Youth Empowerment Program (Ruwwad) builds the leadership capabilities of Palestinian youth by engaging them in four types of community service learning: civic engagement, economic opportunities, leadership skills, and sports and culture. Ruwwad also strengthens a network of Youth Development and Resource Centers (YDRCs) and affiliated clubs located throughout the West Bank and Gaza in order to prepare Palestinian youth for future leadership.

Goals

- Enhance the institutional capacity of three YDRCs and a network of 30 affiliated youth clubs to deliver quality programs for youth throughout the West Bank.
- Promote the application of localized “service learning” models through a youth corps among the YDRCs and affiliated clubs.

Activities

Ruwwad aims to improve the institutional capacity of three YDRCs and 30 affiliated clubs to enable them to deliver quality programming for youth in the age of 14-29. Ruwwad’s support includes capacity building to the staff and the board members helping to establish management and financial systems and project planning systems. Ruwwad’s program activities in the YDRCs enhance youth leadership skills and promote civic and community participation. Programs being supported include establishment of three media centers and ICT training supported by major IT companies including Intel Learn, Microsoft’s Unlimited Potential training and Cisco’s MyTecc.

To support the implementation of quality programming, Ruwwad provides sub-grants to develop and implement youth programs within the YDRCs and affiliated clubs. To enhance youth creativity and innovation, these grants support civic education, sports and cultural activities, internships, business incubation services, psycho-social counseling, English language courses and the first Lego League. Ruwwad also provides internship opportunities to recent college graduates and to other youth affiliated with the YDRCs and clubs to help implement the different programs including the media work and the ICT training. Ruwwad also organizes internships in the public and private sectors. To improve regional communication and shared best practices, Ruwwad is supporting efficient and cost effective internet connectivity among all YDRCs and affiliated clubs.

One of Ruwwad’s focus areas include service learning models through a youth corps which mobilizes YDRC and affiliated club youth to take an active, grass roots role in changing their communities. Activities include leadership training



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*A newly renovated YDRC
in Al-Bireh, Ramallah.*

CONTACT INFORMATION

Karen Exel
Director, Education Development
Program
USAID
U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv
71 Hayarkon Street
Tel Aviv, 63903
Tel: 972-3-511-4848
Fax: 972-3-511-4888

Melissa Kennison
Desk Officer
Tel: (202) 712-4521
Email: mkennison@usaid.gov

www.usaid.gov/wbg

and youth-led community initiatives planned, designed and implemented by youth leaders and volunteers. Such initiatives include public awareness campaigns (e.g., anti-smoking, breast cancer, community clean-up; environmental campaigns, fundraising, and pediatric cancer); sports and cultural events; and inter-generational dialogue.

Ruwwad will also establish Intel computer Clubhouses in the Ramallah and Nablus YDRCs. These Clubhouses provide opportunities for young men and women to discover their talents through the exploration of various computer software packages and learning opportunities. Finally, Ruwwad focuses on the development of public-private partnerships that will benefit YDRC youth.

Successes

- Engaged more than 3,000 youth leaders and volunteers in leadership training and youth-led community service projects.
- Implemented more than 55 youth-led community service projects.
- Provided more than 120 paid internship opportunities in the YDRCs and other local organizations.
- Trained more than 500 youth in information technology programs.
- Established three critical public-private partnerships with U.S. firms:
 - Cisco established the Mediterranean Youth Technology Club (MYTecc) in the three YDRCs. MYTecc is a two-year, after school program that promotes information access among youth.
 - Intel donated computer lab equipment to three YDRCs and 15 affiliated clubs. In addition, Intel provided licenses for the establishment of a Computer Clubhouse Network and an Intel Learn Program which provides 9-12 year old children with critical thinking, problem solving and team work skills.
 - Microsoft provided both software and training for the Unlimited Potential "UP" and Digital Literacy curriculum in Arabic. Microsoft UP is a global program that focuses on improving lifelong learning for young people by linking this technology to real world applications. Microsoft also donated \$240,000 worth of software to each YDRC.
- Established three media centers in the YDRCs and provided IT and audio-video equipment, media training and internships to provide youth opportunities to produce video news releases and audio reports on youth related issues.
- Awarded 11 sub-grant agreements with local NGOs to implement programs in the YDRCs and affiliated clubs.

Project Detail

Implementing Partner: Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC); Life of Project: 09/30/2005-09/30/2011; Total Estimated Cost: \$17,175,000.